

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-05 H-01 DEAE-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 /056 W
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R 060822Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1624
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
USMISSION USBERLIN
CINC USAREUR HEIDELBERG
SECDEF WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 16190

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, SNAR, GE, GW, WB
SUBJECT: HOUSE DRUG COMMITTEE VISIT TO GERMANY

REF: STATE 211362, USBER 1995, BERLIN 5443

1. THE EMBASSY WELCOMES CODEL'S PROPOSED VISIT TO THE FRG TO INVESTIGATE DRUG ABUSE AND TRAFFICKING AMONG US MILITARY PERSONNEL.

2. THE CURRENT DRUG SITUATION IN THE US MILITARY HERE IS APPARENTLY CLOSELY LINKED TO THE HIGH AVAILABILITY OF NARCOTICS IN THE FRG AND BERLIN. WE BELIEVE THE CODEL'S VISIT COULD SERVE TO DRAW FRG ATTENTION TO DRUG-RELATED ISSUES AND THUS FURTHER THE EMBASSY'S OBJECTIVES TO ENCOURAGE THE WEST GERMANS:

- TO PROVIDE HIGH-LEVEL FOCUS AND DIRECTION TO DRUG CONTROL PROGRAMS;

- TO DEVOTE MORE RESOURCES TO THESE PROGRAMS; AND
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- TO BROADEN AND DEEPEN AREAS OF US/FRG COOPERATION IN DRUG CONTROL EFFORTS.

3. WE BELIEVE THE WEST GERMANS HAVE CONSISTENTLY UNDERESTIMATED THE SERIOUSNESS OF THEIR DRUG PROBLEM. THE CODEL'S INVESTIGATIONS MAY WELL TEND TO CONFIRM OUR

BELIEF. IF THEY DO, THERE ARE OBVIOUS POLITICAL
OVERTONES FOR THE FRG, AND WE WOULD HOPE THAT WHATEVER
PUBLIC STATEMENTS CODEL'S MEMBERS MAKE WOULD AVOID
IMPLICATIONS THAT THE GERMANS HAVE DONE
AN INADEQUATE JOB IN CONTROLLING DRUG SUPPLY AND
AVAILABILITY IN THE FRG.

4. IF CONGRESSMAN ENGLISH DOES INDEED CHOOSE TO VISIT
BONN, THE EMBASSY IS PREPARED TO MAKE APPOINTMENTS
FOR HIM WITH KNOWLEDGEABLE FRG OFFICIALS AT THE
HIGHEST POSSIBLE LEVEL. APART FROM THESE APPOINTMENTS,
OTHER CALLS THE CONGRESSMAN AND HIS COLLEAGUES MIGHT
MAKE WILL DEPEND ON WHERE THE TWO-DAY INTERVIEWS
WILL BE HELD, THE TIME AVAILABLE, AND THE WILLINGNESS
OF CODEL MEMBERS TO TRAVEL ELSEWHERE. WE CAN
PRESUMABLY DISCUSS THESE DETAILS WITH COMMITTEE CHIEF
OF STAFF LAWRENCE WHEN HE VISITS IN BONN LATER THIS
MONTH.

5. USAREUR CONCURS THAT CODEL'S VISIT COULD BE USEFUL.
USAREUR IS CONCERNED, HOWEVER, THAT THE COMMITTEE
PROPOSES TO HOLD THE FORMAL HEARINGS IN BERLIN, AND
POINTS OUT THAT:

A) THE FORMAL HEARINGS IN BERLIN CAN ONLY RESULT
IN SHARPENING THE PERSPECTIVE THAT BERLIN HAS AN
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UNMANAGEABLE DRUG PROBLEM.

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B) BERLIN BRIGADE'S ABUSE RATE IS BELOW THE
OVERALL USAREUR AVERAGE.

C) IT WILL BE MORE CONVENIENT FOR THE SELECTED
WITNESSES TO TRAVEL TO A CENTRAL LOCATION WITHIN THE
FRG THAN TO TRAVEL TO BERLIN.

6. DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE
OFFICER, HELEN GOBIN, HAS INFORMED USAREUR THAT
CONGRESSMAN ENGLISH TOLD HER THAT IT IS NOT THE
COMMITTEE'S INTENT OR DESIRE TO FOCUS THE HEARINGS
ON BERLIN.

7. FOR THE REASONS NOTED ABOVE, USAREUR RECOMMENDS
THAT THE COMMITTEE'S FORMAL HEARINGS BE HELD AT A
CENTRAL LOCATION IN THE FRG AND NOT IN BERLIN, AND HAS
ASKED THAT THE DEPARTMENT SEEK TO OBTAIN THE COMMITTEE'S
AGREEMENT TO SUCH A CHANGE IN PLANS.

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8. FOR USBER AND BERLIN: USAREUR AND THE EMBASSY
WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS TO USAREUR'S REQUEST.
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